

Whitley Lodge First School

Newsletter 21 - Summer 2026



A message from Mrs Palmer

Another year has simply flown by at Whitley Lodge and I thank all of our families for the fantastic support they have provided this year. Whitley Lodge is such a wonderful place at the heart of the community and we are all proud to be part of it.

Throughout the year, the children have earned Wonder Award certificates for demonstrating our shared values: kindness, honesty, courage, resilience and respect. It has been a pleasure to present so many of these at our Friday assembly.

During our incredibly successful Ofsted inspection, it was these qualities that shone out throughout. The children delighted in sharing what they love about Whitley Lodge and were so animated when telling inspectors of the many highlights from this year, including:

- Number Day, European Day of Languages, World Book Day, Musical concerts, Rock Steady, Santa Dash, The Dance Festival, Spring Sing, so many sporting festivals, Active Mile Day, Keeping Safe Day, STEAM Fortnight, First Aid Training, Tiny Lives Fundraiser, Pirate Day, Sports Week & the fantastic Whitley Lodge ParkRun Takeover.
- Our Book Club Assembly is still a firm favourite and children look forward to hearing and talking about a new book every Thursday morning.
- Our annual trip to the Pantomime seeing *Jack & the Beanstalk* was an exciting day out for Reception, Key Stage One & Key Stage Two children.
- Outdoor Learning is a real strength at our school. In addition to regular visits to the Beach and The Brierdene, Reception loved the Winter Wonder Land trip to The Rising Sun, Key Stage One thoroughly enjoyed the visit from Kielder Birds of Prey Sanctuary and Key Stage Two had a fabulous experience at Beamish Museum. Nursery children had great fun with Whitley Lodge Under 5's at the beach too.
- Year 4 and Reception Buddies have formed strong and supportive friendships during the many opportunities provided to get together over the year.
- Our School Sports Day also stands out as a super memory. As always, the children impressed us with their great team spirit and encouragement throughout. Well done to everyone and thank you to those who could come to support us on the day.

Here we are at the end of the school year. For those of you who are saying goodbye as they move onto their next school, we wish you much happiness and success in the future.

We look forward to welcoming those who are returning to Whitley Lodge and those who are starting their journey with us in September too.

On behalf of the WLFS staff team, may I take this opportunity to thank all our families once again and wish you a relaxing summer break.

Best wishes,

Mrs Jennifer Palmer

Headteacher



Diary Dates 2026-2027

1.9.26 Training Day

**Wednesday 2 September –
children return to school**

**24.9.26 - Reception Parent
workshop @ 2:30pm**

13.10.26 Parent Evening 1

15.10.26 Parent Evening 2

**21.10.26 Halloween Disco
for Reception-Y4**

23.10.26 Training Day

26.10.26-30.10.26 Half Term

18.12.26 Pupils break up for
Christmas holiday

2027

4.1.27 Training Day

15.2.27-19.2.27 Half Term

26.3.27-9.4.27 Easter Break

3.5.27 May Bank Holiday

28.5.27 Training Day

31.5.27-4.6.27 Half Term

20.7.27 Last day for pupils

21.7.27 Training Day

The next newsletter is out on
Friday 4 September 2026